

For Immediate Release

AFAR GRANTS NEARLY \$3,400,000 TO BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ON AGING

New York, NY—December 16, 2015

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is proud to announce the recipients of its 2015 Biology of Aging Grant programs. This year, AFAR has given 40 awards totaling \$3,388,090 to investigators at all career levels--from graduate and medical students to postdoctoral fellows and assistant professors--at 16 research institutions across the US as well as Israel, through its core grant programs:

AFAR Research Grants for Junior Faculty are providing **ten junior faculty up to \$100,000** for one to two years of support to conduct research that will serve as the basis for longer term research efforts. These MDs and PhDs are studying a broad range of biomedical and clinical topics including muscle function, differences in biological aging between the sexes, canine aging vs. human aging, and much more. Since 1981, over 700 AFAR Research Grants have been awarded.

The **New Investigator Awards in Alzheimer's Disease** program, funded by The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation and AFAR, is providing five, **one- to two-year awards of \$100,000** to support important research in areas in which more scientific investigation is needed to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The program also serves to encourage junior investigators in the United States and Israel to pursue research and academic careers in the neurosciences, and Alzheimer's disease in particular.

The **Julie Martin Mid-career Awards in Aging Research** program, sponsored by The Lawrence Ellison Foundation, is providing **two awards of \$550,000** to mid-career scientists engaged in innovative research that has the potential for high payoff in advancing understanding of basic mechanisms of aging.

AFAR collaborates with the [Glenn Foundation for Medical Research](#) on three grant programs:

The **Glenn/AFAR Scholarships for Research in the Biology of Aging** are providing **11 investigators** with \$5,000 scholarships to conduct a three-to-six month research project focused on biomedical research in aging, attracting talented students to the field of aging research.

The **Glenn/AFAR Postdoctoral Fellowship Program for Translational Research on Aging** is providing awards ranging from \$49,000 to \$60,000 to **ten postdoctoral fellows** (MD, MD/PhD and PhD) who direct their research towards translational findings that can have direct benefits to human aging.

And the Glenn/AFAR Breakthroughs in Gerontology (BIG) Awards Program is providing **two, two-year grants of up to \$200,000** to support research that shows translational potential for clinically relevant strategies, treatments and therapeutics.

Annually, AFAR receives hundreds letters of intent, which are reviewed by committees of leading scientists from across the country, many of whom are past AFAR grantees.

"Through this rigorous review and selection process, AFAR supports a wide range of approaches to investigating the fundamental biological processes of how and why we age. While maintaining a core investment in basic biomedical research, these grants also help advance translational projects that are making basic discoveries relevant to the practice of medicine," notes AFAR Scientific Director Steven N. Austad, PhD, Distinguished Professor and Department Chair, Department of Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"With a shortfall in funding at the national level, AFAR's mission to support young scientists is more important than ever," notes AFAR Executive Director Stephanie Lederman. "But just as critical is the support that AFAR gives to mid-career and senior researchers that allows them to continue to focus their research on age-related topics. AFAR's Biology of Aging Grants help create a career pipeline that is essential to advancing better medicine for age-related diseases and discoveries that will help us all live healthier, longer."

AFAR proudly introduces its 2015 Biology of Aging grantees:

AFAR Research Grants for Junior Faculty

- [Dena Dubal MD, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, University of California, San Francisco
- [Jenna Galloway, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, Massachusetts General Hospital
- [W. Mike Henne, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center:
- [Derek Huffman, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- [Adam Hughes, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, University of Utah
- [Dudley Lamming, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- [Louis Lapierre, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, Brown University
- [Sergiy Libert, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, Cornell University
- [Ashley Webb, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, Brown University
- [Omer Yilmaz MD, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

New Investigator Awards in Alzheimer's Disease

- [Todd Cohen, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- [Jason Hinman, MD, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Neurology, University of California, Los Angeles
- [Manu Sharma, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, Weill Cornell Medicine
- [Marc Vermulst, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- [Alon Zaslaver, PhD](#), Senior Lecturer, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Glenn/AFAR Breakthroughs in Gerontology (BIG) Awards

- [David Marcinek, PhD](#), Associate Professor, University of Washington Medical Center
- [David Sabatini MD, PhD](#), Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Julie Martin Mid-career Awards in Aging Research

- [Derrick Rossi, PhD](#), Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School/Children's Hospital Boston
- [David Walker, PhD](#), Associate Professor, University of California, Los Angeles

Glenn/AFAR Postdoctoral Fellowship Program for Translational Research on Aging

- [Dov Ballak, PhD](#), Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Colorado at Boulder
- [Marco De Cecco, PhD](#), Postdoctoral Research Associate, Brown University
- [Hongqing Du, PhD](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University School of Medicine
- [Neha Garg, PhD](#), Postdoctoral Associate, Harvard University
- [David Gate, PhD](#), Postdoctoral Researcher, Stanford University
- [Emily Goldberg, PhD](#), Postdoctoral Associate, Yale University
- [Woojin Han, MSE, PhD](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, Georgia Tech
- [Jerome Mertens, PhD](#), Research Associate, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
- [Reyhan Westbrook, PhD](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins University
- [Lynda Wilmott, PhD](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Glenn/AFAR Scholarships for Research in the Biology of Aging

- [Ishrat Ahmed](#), Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- [Nathan Basisty](#), University of Washington
- [LaShardai Brown](#), Medical University of South Carolina
- [Wei-Sheng Chen](#), Tufts University
- [Ignacio Guerrero-Ros](#), Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- [Hanzhi Luo](#), University of California, Berkeley
- [Sarah Neuner](#), University of Tennessee Health Science Center
- [Felicia Ooi](#), University of Iowa
- [Allyson Palmer](#), Mayo Clinic
- [Mihir Vohra](#), University of California, San Francisco
- [Caiyue Xu](#), University of Pennsylvania

About AFAR

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research. Founded in 1981, AFAR has championed the cause and supported the funding of science in healthier aging and age-related medicine. To address the shortage of physicians and researchers dedicated to the science of healthier aging, AFAR funds physicians and scientists probing the fundamental mechanisms of aging, as well as specific diseases associated with aging populations at critical points throughout their careers. AFAR engages the public through webinars, conferences and our online resource, InfoAging, featuring over two dozen downloadable guides, edited by guest experts on topics ranging from theories of aging, age-related conditions, healthy lifestyle tips, and more. Learn at www.afar.org or follow AFARorg on Twitter and Facebook.